

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 thru 12 and 30 thru 41 as follows:

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a mount having an aperture;

a piston adjacent to said mount and having an aperture, said piston being of a shape for defining a movement direction of the piston;

a shear pin having one end press fit into the aperture in said mount and another end inserted through a sleeve into the aperture in said piston, said shear pin restraining the piston relative to the mount;

a hammer region formed on said piston and located in the movement direction of said piston;

a strikable part mounted in the movement direction of the piston from said hammer region and separated from the hammer region by a gap, said strikable part sealing a flowpath of gas in said apparatus, said hammer region striking said strikable part upon movement of the piston in the movement direction through said gap; and

a stationary part connected to said strikable part by a shearable link, said strikable part being separated from said stationary part upon being struck by said hammer region with an input force for shearing said shearable link;

said shear pin being constructed to be shearable with less input force than the input

18 force for shearing said shearable link so that the gas does not flow in the apparatus when said
19 shear pin is initially sheared, but gas does flow when both said shear pin and said shearable
20 link are sheared and said strikable part is separated from said stationary part;

21 said sleeve comprising an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by said outer
22 surface for receiving said shear pin, said eccentric bore being parallel to and not coaxial with
23 the outer surface of said sleeve.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, said strikable part being
2 mounted to said mount.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, said stationary part being
2 connected to said mount.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

1 18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
2 a mount having an aperture;
3 a piston adjacent to said mount and having an aperture, said piston being of a shape
4 for defining a movement direction of the piston;
5 a shear pin having one end inserted into the aperture in said mount and another end

6 inserted through a sleeve into the aperture in said piston, said shear pin restraining the piston
7 relative to the mount;

8 a hammer region formed on said piston and located in the movement direction of said
9 piston;

10 a strikable part mounted in the movement direction of the piston from said hammer
11 region and separated from the hammer region by a gap, said strikable part sealing a flowpath
12 of gas in said apparatus, said hammer region striking said strikable part upon movement of
13 the piston in the movement direction through said gap, and said shear pin being spaced apart
14 from said strikable part in the movement direction of said piston; and

15 a stationary part connected to said strikable part by a shearable link, said strikable part
16 being separated from said stationary part upon being struck by said hammer region with an
17 input force for shearing said shearable link;

18 said shear pin being constructed to be shearable with less input force than the input
19 force for shearing said shearable link so that the gas does not flow in the apparatus when said
20 shear pin is initially sheared, but gas does flow when both said shear pin and said shearable
21 link are sheared and said strikable part is separated from said stationary part;

22 said sleeve comprising an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by said outer
23 surface for receiving said shear pin, said eccentric bore being parallel to and not coaxial with
24 the outer surface of said sleeve.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, said strikable part being
2 mounted to said mount.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

1 21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, said stationary part being
2 connected to said mount.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

1 23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
2 a mount having an aperture;
3 a piston adjacent to said mount and having an aperture, said piston being of a shape
4 for defining a movement direction of the piston;
5 a shear pin having one end of the shear pin inserted into the aperture in said mount and
6 another end of the shear pin connected to said piston through a sleeve, said shear pin
7 restraining the piston relative to the mount;
8 a hammer region formed on said piston and located in the movement direction of said
9 piston; and
10 a strikable part mounted in the movement direction of the piston from said hammer
11 region and separated from the hammer region by a gap, said hammer region striking said
12 strikable part upon movement of the piston in the movement direction through said gap;
13 said sleeve comprising an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by said outer
14 surface for receiving said shear pin, said eccentric bore being parallel to and not coaxial with

15 the outer surface of said sleeve.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, said strikable part being
2 mounted to said mount.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a stationary part connected to said strikable part by a shearable link, said strikable part
3 being separated from said stationary part upon being struck by said hammer region with an
4 input force for shearing said shearable link.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, said stationary part being
2 connected to said mount.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, said strikable part sealing a
2 flowpath of gas in said apparatus, said shear pin being constructed to be shearable with less
3 input force than the input force for shearing said shearable link so that the gas does not flow
4 in the apparatus when said shear pin is initially sheared, but gas does flow when both said
5 shear pin and said shearable link are sheared and said strikable part is separated from said
6 stationary part.

Claims 28-41. (Canceled)

1 42. (Previously Presented) A method for restraining free play in an apparatus,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a mount having an aperture;

4 providing a piston adjacent to the mount, said piston being of a shape for defining a
5 movement direction of the piston;

6 inserting an end of a shear pin into the aperture of the mount and connecting another
7 end of the shear pin to the piston through a sleeve so as to couple said mount to said piston,
8 thereby restraining the piston relative to the mount; and

9 providing said sleeve with an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by said
10 outer surface for receiving said shear pin, said eccentric bore being parallel to and not
11 coaxial with the outer surface of said sleeve.

1 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:
2 with said piston being restrained relative to the mount, striking a strikable part with
3 a hammer region formed on the piston in the movement direction of the piston by traversing
4 the piston through a gap separating the hammer region from the strikable part.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The method of 43, further comprising the step of:
2 separating the strikable part from a stationary part when the strikable part is struck
3 by the hammer region of the piston.

1 45. (Original) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of:
2 shearing the shear pin by motion of the piston.

1 46. (Original) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:
2 shearing the shear pin by motion of the piston.

1 47. (Previously Presented) A method for the restraining free play in an apparatus,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 providing a mount;
4 providing a piston adjacent to the mount, the piston being of a shape for defining a
5 movement direction of the piston;
6 press fitting an end of a shear pin into the mount and coupling another end of the shear
7 pin through a sleeve to said piston for restraining the piston relative to the mount;
8 shearing the shear pin by motion of the piston;
9 striking a strikable part mounted in the movement direction of the piston by a hammer
10 region formed on the piston by moving the piston through a gap separating the hammer
11 region and the strikable part; and
12 separating the strikable part from a stationary part when the strikable part is struck
13 by the hammer region;
14 wherein the strikable part seals a flowpath of gas with apparatus until separated from
15 the stationary part;
16 wherein the shear pin is sheared by less force than is required to separate the strikable

17 part from the stationary part so that the gas does not flow through the flowpath when the
18 shear pin is initially sheared, but only flows through the flowpath when the strikable part is
19 separated from the stationary part a certain amount of time after shearing of the shear pin;
20 and

21 wherein said sleeve is provided with an outer surface and an eccentric bore
22 surrounded by said outer surface for receiving said shear pin, said eccentric bore being
23 parallel to and not coaxial with the outer surface of said sleeve.

Claims 48-50. (Canceled)